



October 22, 2006
US Department of Interior
Attention: Mark Negri

We share the belief that Google's technology can help the Department of Interior more effectively accomplish its mission and improve the communication, consultation and cooperation of organizations involved in managing our National resources. Google is genuinely committed to defining and supporting a productive partnership with the Department of Interior and confident that together we can deliver a tremendously positive impact to very important objectives.

The Department has expressed specific and immediate interest to ensure the Google Earth consumer clients which Department employees have been using are not in violation of the respective Google license. We fully support the continued and expanding interest in, and use of Google Earth by the Department of Interior and we reiterate the assurance that through June 29, 2007 the Department of Interior and any of its bureaus should not be compelled for reasons related to the Google Earth consumer license to remove or restrict the download and use of the Google Earth client. Separate and additionally, the Department should not hesitate for any reason to publish data in for others to consume with a Google Earth client.

All of our Geospatial products are already available today through commercial license options and offered on a GSA schedule which affords any bureau the ability for controlled leverage of Google Earth technology within their own environment, with no compliance concerns. As we've discussed with some bureaus, Google operates the world's largest fused database of satellite imagery. Google Earth licenses take the into account varying issues and the substantial costs Google incurs from ongoing technology development and operations, as well as the rights and responsibilities we have, and costs we incur from data providers.

We agree that the proven adoption and use of the Google Earth consumer client across a very broad community of users validates that the Google Earth client interface solves a long standing challenge of how to effectively train users how to access, leverage and benefit from geospatial data. Our experience assisting many Federal Government agencies with making data efficiently available to broad user communities underlies our confidence that Google's technology can play a highly visible role supporting more strategic management decisions, better accessibility by public citizens and more transparency and awareness for employees supporting both.

Google Earth expands the awareness of, and increases the value the Department of Interior can recognize and achieve from, the significant investment of time, energy and capital already made in IT systems, including ever-growing GIS requirements. We welcome the opportunity to extend a mutual understanding for how the Department and Google can work together to improve the Department's mission outcome. Thank you for your sharing your licensing concerns and willingness to work with Google to discuss your enterprise. We very much look forward to working closely with USGS and the Department and welcome the chance to help expand the reach of your important research and education mission.

Google, Federal

For any additional questions please contact:

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